Ammendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for attenuating an optical beam, said method comprising: generating a communication beam at an optical input fiber; generating an alignment beam at a beam generating element, wherein said alignment beam is associated with said communication beam; receiving said alignment beam on a sensor, wherein said sensor provides a location of said alignment beam on said sensor; and positioning said communication beam so that a desired percentage of said communication beam enters an output fiber, wherein said positioning of said communication beam comprises an offset from said location of said alignment beam.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said positioning is performed by a method comprising: directing said communication beam to a micro electromechanical (MEMS) device; and positioning said MEMS device so that said desired percentage of said communication beam enters said output fiber.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said positioning is performed by a method comprising: directing said communication beam to a first micro electromechanical (MEMS) device; positioning said first MEMS device so that said communication beam is reflected from a surface of said first MEMS device and is redirected to a second MEMS device; and positioning said second MEMS device so that said desired percentage of said communication beam enters said output fiber.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, said method further

comprising: repeatedly receiving said alignment beam to provide updated locations of said alignment beam; and repositioning said communication beam as necessary to reflect any change in location of said alignment beam to maintain the desired percentage of said communication beam that enters said output fiber.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising: repeatedly determining said desired percentage of said communication beam that enters said output fiber to determine if said desired percentage has changed; and repositioning said communication beam as necessary to reflect any change in said desired percentage of said communication beam that enters said output fiber.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising: positioning said communication beam at about a center of a core in said output fiber so that about all of Said communication beam enters said output fiber.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising: positioning said communication beam at an offset from a center of a core in said output fiber so only a portion of said communication beam enters said output fiber.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein each of a plurality of locations on said sensor corresponds to a particular offset that said communication beam enters said output fiber.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said communication beam and said alignment beam are generated at a beam generation element, and wherein said communication beam and said alignment beam proceed along paths that are substantially parallel.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said

communication beam and said alignment beam are generated at a beam generation element, and wherein said communication beam and said alignment beam proceed along paths that are parallel.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said communication beam and said alignment beam are generated at a beam generation element, and wherein said communication beam and said alignment beam proceed along paths that are converging.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein said alignment beam and said communication beam cross approximately midway along an optical path.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said communication beam and said alignment beam are generated at a beam generation element, and wherein said communication beam and said alignment beam proceed along paths that are coaxial.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said sensor comprises a sensor selected from the group selected from a position sensitive diode (PSD), a charge coupled device (CCD), and a light sensitive CMOS sensor.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said sensor comprises a position sensitive diode (PSD).

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1,wherein said sensor comprises a charge coupled device (CCD).

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said sensor comprises a light sensitive CMOS sensor.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said alignment beam is generated by a light source selected from the group consisting of a light emitting diode (LED), an optical fiber, a laser, and a vertical cavity surface emitting laser (VCSEL).

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said alignment beam comprises a light emitting diode (LED), said method further comprising: providing a LED mask at said beam generating element to control an amount of light produced by said LED.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising: providing a first lenslet at said beam generating element, wherein said lenslet collimates said alignment beam.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, said method further comprising: providing a second lenslet at a beam receiving element, wherein said second lenslet focuses said alignment beam onto said sensor.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising: providing a lenslet at said beam generating element, wherein said lenslet collimates said communication beam.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method according to claim 22, said method further comprising: providing a second lenslet at a beam receiving element, wherein said second lenslet focuses said communication beam.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said alignment beam is generated by a light supplying fiber that is positioned in a fixed spatial relationship with said optical input fiber.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method for attenuating a plurality of optical beams, said method comprising: generating a plurality of communication beams at an optical input fiber; generating a plurality of alignment beams at a beam generating element, wherein each of said plurality of alignment beams is associated with one of said plurality of communication beams; receiving each of said plurality of alignment beams at a respective sensor, wherein each of said plurality of sensors provides a location of a received alignment beam on said respective sensor; positioning each of said plurality of communication beams so that a desired percentage of each of said plurality of communication beams enters an associated output fiber; and wherein said positioning of each of said plurality of communication beams comprises an offset from an associated one of said plurality of locations of said alignment beams.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein said positioning of each of said plurality of communication beams is performed by a method comprising: directing each of said plurality of communication beams to a micro electromechanical (MEMS) device; and positioning said MEMS device so that said desired percentage of each of said plurality of communication beams enters said associated output fiber.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, said method further comprising: repeatedly receiving each of said plurality of alignment beams to provide updated locations of each of said plurality of alignment beams; and repositioning each of said plurality of communication beams as necessary to reflect any change in location of each of said plurality of alignment beams to maintain the desired percentage of each of said plurality of communication beams that enter said associated output fiber.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, said method further comprising: repeatedly determining said desired percentage of each of said plurality of communication beams that enter said associated output fiber to determine if said desired percentage has changed; and repositioning each of said plurality of communication beams as

necessary to reflect any change in said desired percentage.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, said method further comprising: positioning at least one of said plurality of communication beams at about a center of a core in said output fiber so that about all of said at least one of said plurality of communication beams enter said output fiber.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, said method further comprising: positioning at least one of said plurality of communication beams at an offset from a center of a core in said output fiber so that only a portion of said at least one of said plurality of communication beams enters said output fiber.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein each of said plurality of communication beams and each of said plurality of alignment beams are generated at a beam generation element; and wherein each of said plurality of communication beams and each of said plurality of alignment beams proceed along paths that are substantially parallel.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein each of said plurality of communication beams and each of said plurality of alignment beams are generated at a beam generation element; and wherein each of said plurality of communication beams and each of said plurality of alignment beams proceed along paths that are parallel.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein each of said plurality of communication beams and each of said plurality of alignment beams are generated at a beam generation element; and wherein each of said plurality of communication beams and each of said plurality of alignment beams proceed along paths that converge.

Claims 34-37 (canceled)